

USSN 10/815,387
Attorney Docket No. 2003-0092-01

REMARKS

Claims 1-64 are active and pending in the present application. Claims 65-102 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claims 49-64 stand objected to.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP60197073.

Applicants' independent Claim 1 relates to a high power high repetition rate gas discharge laser UV light source having a gas discharge chamber comprising an interior wall comprising a vertical wall and an adjacent bottom wall. The laser UV light source also has a gas circulation fan creating a gas flow path adjacent the interior vertical wall and the adjacent bottom wall, and an in-chamber dust trap positioned in a region of low gas flow.

Applicants' contend that although JP60197073 indicates a gas dust collecting filter, it does not teach or suggest a dust trap *positioned in a region of low gas flow*. JP60197073 indicates that the downward flow of the gas medium traverses the dust collecting filter 23 for removing any dirt and dust. Filter 23 also removes dirt and dust from the gas medium as it detours the bottom of controller 22 before flowing upward. Applicants contend that having both the downward and upward flow of the gas medium traverse the filter 23 does not show or suggest *positioning* an in-chamber dust trap *in a region of low gas flow* as in Applicants' claimed invention. For example, as shown in Applicants' FIG. 7, traps 280 are placed in low gas flow regions. These regions are in pockets formed between the main insulator 42 and the top half 22 of the chamber. Gas pressure and circulation will tend to move debris toward the traps 280 and once the debris passes through the dust traps, e.g., into the pockets 282, it will be difficult for the debris to be caused to return back through the traps 280 to return into the gas flow.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that JP60197073 does not show or suggests all of the elements of Applicants' Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit

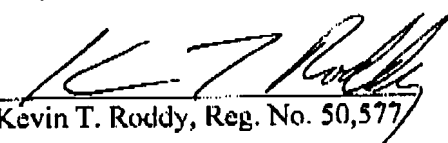
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that Claims 2-64, which depend from Claim 1, are also allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

Applicants do not believe that any fees or charges are due for the continuing prosecution of the above captioned U.S. Patent Application, but in the event that there are the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account of applicants' assignee, Cymer, Inc. Deposit Account No. 03-4060 for any such fees or charges.

Respectfully submitted,


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October 17, 2007
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